

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for generating a page, the method comprising:
2 determining a data source specification and a layout specification for the page,
3 the data source specification and layout specification being declaratively specified by a user,
4 the data source specification including access information for a data source;
5 retrieving data for the data source based on the data source specification and
6 the access information;
7 determining a layout for the data based on the layout specification; and
8 generating the page using the data and the determined layout.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data source specification
2 comprises a data type for the data source.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data type comprises at least one of
2 a spreadsheet data type, XML data type, SQL data type, web service data type, and a web
3 page data type.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the access information comprises a
2 path to the data source.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the path comprises a URL.

- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data source specification
2 comprises a filtering specification that filters data retrieved from the data source.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the layout specification comprises at
2 least one of a tabular layout, chart layout, news layout, form layout, and bullet layout.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the layout comprises
2 formatting the retrieved data into the layout.

- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the page comprises a web-based page.

- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the page comprises a portlet.

- 1 11. A method for generating a graphical user interface (GUI), the method
2 comprising:

- 3 providing a data source interface that enables a user to declaratively specify
- 4 access information for a data source;
- 5 determining a declarative specification for the data source;
- 6 retrieving data for the data source using the access information;
- 7 providing a layout interface that enables the user to declaratively specify a
- 8 layout for the determined data;
- 9 determining a layout specification for the determined data; and
- 10 generating a graphical user interface based on the declarative specification for
- 11 the data source and the layout specification for the determined data.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data source interface comprises
2 one or more data types that enables a user to specify a data type for the data source.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the one or more data types comprise
2 at least one of a spreadsheet data type, XML data type, SQL data type, web service data type,
3 and a web page data type.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein determining the data comprises using
2 the specified data type and the access information to retrieve the data for the specified data
3 source.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the access information comprises a
2 URL.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing a filtering
2 interface including filtering options for the retrieved data that enables a user to declaratively
3 specify which data to use in the generated GUI.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the layout interface comprises one or
2 more layout options that enables the user to declaratively specify a layout type.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the layout type comprises at least one
2 of a tabular layout, chart layout, news layout, form layout, and bullet layout.

1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising providing a layout type
2 interface that enables the user to specify how the retrieved data should be laid out in the GUI
3 using the specified layout type.

1 20. The method of claim 11, wherein the data source interface does not
2 include the access information for the data source before it is declaratively specified by the
3 user.

1 21. The method of claim 11, wherein the GUI comprises a web-based
2 page.

1 22. The method of claim 11, wherein the GUI comprises a portlet.

1 23. A method for declaratively generating a page using an interface, the
2 method comprising:

3 receiving a declarative specification of access information for a data source,
4 wherein the access information is input by a user;
5 retrieving data using the access information for the data source;
6 determining layout information for data from the data source; and
7 generating a page using the retrieved data and the layout information.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the declarative specification
2 comprises a specification of a data type for the data source.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the access information comprises a
2 path to the data source.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the path comprises a URL.

1 27. The method of claim 23, wherein the declarative specification
2 comprises a filtering specification that filters data retrieved from the data source.

1 28. The method of claim 23, wherein the page comprises a web-based
2 page.

1 29. The method of claim 23, wherein the page comprises a portlet.